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SWEET  
BRIAR  
COLLEGE

# Sweet Briar

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BULLETIN OF SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 1972

## Computer Widely Used by Students, Faculty

If the future belongs to those who understand the computer, Sweet Briar students can look ahead with assurance, for computer science is becoming part of their liberal education. Students in a number of classes are being introduced to use of the equipment, and eventually it will become an essential tool in nearly every academic department.

Sweet Briar shares with Lynchburg College and Randolph-Macon Woman's College the facilities of the Educational Computer Center in Lynchburg. These include a large NCR Century 200 computer which, operated with IBM punch cards, can take up to 64,000 words; and a Honeywell 1642, operated by terminals and consisting of two smaller computers with a capacity of 20,000 and 16,000 words.

Several terminals, connected by telephone to the Center, were installed at each college a year ago on a time-sharing system whereby several students can use the computers at the same time. With this equipment, made possible by a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the three colleges are better serviced than most colleges of their size across the country. Many have no computers or if they do, the average is one terminal for 1000 students. Sweet Briar has three terminals for 725 students.

At present these terminals are used most widely by the mathematics department. Beginning with freshmen, all math students are taught the elements of computer programming and practice running programs on the machine. They use the simple computer language, BASIC.

According to Dr. Frank C. DeSua, professor of mathematics, the students take to the computer "because it is fun." The computer treats each customer as if it were talking to her alone, and communicating with it is almost like a private conversation with someone she knows. Programs punched out

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## On and Off Campus

### Winter Term Provides New Study Experiences

Whether abroad, at home, or on campus for their assignments, Sweet Briar students had a new and enlightening experience during the Winter term. Learning took on a different aspect in the diverse opportunities offered them: to explore a subject not offered in the regular curriculum; to study intensively in an area of their own choosing; to conduct individual field work; or to try their wings in a job situation.

A few went far afield for their individual projects: one went to Israel to live in a kibbutz; another to Mexico for ethnographical studies; two were in Russia during January on a conducted study-tour; and nine students spent the month in Vienna where they attended music lectures, concerts, opera, and theatre performances in a course arranged by Prof. Lucile Umbreit.



Music students in Vienna

Others went off campus to serve as interns in government and law offices, aides to Congressmen or Senators in Washington, apprentices in museums, mental health centers, and welfare departments. As full-time volunteers, they contributed useful services while observing and gathering material for their assignments.

Several students found their home towns a fertile place for individual study projects; and some, living on campus, conducted individual field studies in Lynchburg and Amherst County, or worked in local institutions. Among the latter were eight students of psychology who were placed in the Lynchburg Training School and Hospital to observe the operation of the institution and to participate in some

of its training programs for the mentally retarded.

The majority remained on campus where they had a wide choice of special courses, seminars and workshops offered on 50 different topics by faculty members representing every department of the curriculum. Students could elect one of these offerings for Winter term study, or they could work independently on a project planned under the direction of their professors.

Some of the courses were: in social studies, Rome in the Age of Augustus, Contemporary Politics in the Middle East, 1905 as a Turning Point in History; in biology, Local Winter Flora, and study of the ecology and pollutants affecting Piney River; in English, the Black Man in American Fiction, and the Classical and Renaissance Love Lyric; in modern languages, conversational French or Italian, or Spanish or German cultural aspects.

A Theatre Production Workshop, in which the members had practical ex-



Checking temperature at weather station

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## COLLEGE CALENDAR Spring Term

### February

- 13-15 Annual Religious Conference
- 16 Honors Convocation, Mills E. Godwin, Jr., former governor of Virginia
- 17 Red Cross Bloodmobile
- 18 Films: *Zero de Conduite*; *The Red Balloon*
- 19 Indoor Horse Show
- Film: *How to Marry a Millionaire*
- 21 Spanish film: *Tristana*
- 25 \*C. A. VanderWerf: "Science as a Human Adventure"
- 26 Film: *The Cardinal*
- 28 Spanish film: *Llanto por un Bandido*

### March

- 2 Alfred Brendel, piano concert
- 3 Film: *The Strong Man*
- 4 Indoor Horse Show
- Film: *Hotel*
- 6 Spanish film: *La Hija de Juan Simon*
- 7-8 Sue Reid Slaughter Lectures: John G. Stoessinger, Acting Director, Political Affairs Division, UN
- 9 Freshman Show
- 10 \*Sherman E. Lee: "Tea Taste in Japanese Art"
- 11 Film: *To Kill A Mockingbird*
- 13 A. G. Dickens: "The Role of the Common People in the European Reformation"
- 14 Italian film: *The Nights of Cabiria*
- 16 \*Robert M. Gagné: "Assessing What Students Learn"
- 17-18 Paint & Patches: *Hedda Gabler*
- 19 Indoor Horse Show
- Film: *A Report on the Party and the Guests*
- 21 Panel on Graduate Study
- 23 Spanish film: *Fortunata y Jacinta*
- 24 Spring vacation begins

### April

- 3 Spring vacation ends
- 4 Phi Beta Kappa initiation and lecture
- Spanish film: *Don Quixote*
- 6 Friends of the Library, annual meeting
- 7 Film: *I Vitelloni*
- 8 Virginia Consortium for Asian Studies
- Film: *The Nun's Story*
- 10 Festival Winds, concert
- 10-14 Virginia Museum Artmobile, "Treasures in Miniature"
- 11 James H. Smylie: "Uncle Tom's Cabin Revisited"
- 14 \*Henry C. Hatfield, "Thomas Mann in America"
- 15 Film: *The Madwoman of Chaillot*
- 16 Ellen Apperson, senior voice recital
- Film: *The Diary of a Country Priest*
- 17 Narcissa Titman: "Understanding 20th Century Theatre"
- 20 Dance Theatre, spring concert
- 20-21 Senior comprehensive exams
- 20-22 Meetings, Board of Overseers and Directors
- Film: *Body and Soul*
- 22 Film: *Bonjour, Tristesse*
- 25 Film: *Our Bible: How it Came to Us*
- 28 Performance by Indian Drama class
- 29 Film: *Ensign Pulver*

### May

- 5 Film: *The Last Laugh*
- 6 Amherst County Day
- Film: *Sweet November*
- 8 Classes end
- 11-16 Examinations
- 20 Baccalaureate; Garden Party
- 21 Sixty-third Commencement
- \*Visiting Scholar, University Center in Virginia



Photo by Glenn Showalter

Math major Peggy Hoy using terminal

## Computer Widely Used

(continued from page 1)

on the teletype-writer of the terminal bring answers in a matter of seconds—in computer lingo, an immediate turnaround.

An intensive Winter term course, Introduction to Computer Science, was taught by Dr. Mary Ann Lee, professor of mathematics. Students learned how to program the digital computer for applications in a variety of fields with a second computer language, FORTRAN, the code most widely used.

The department looks forward to building a reservoir of students with computer skills, not only for their own programs, but also to aid in faculty projects. This may create new jobs, both on campus and during summers, for students who need to earn money toward their education.

Use of the computer was one of the techniques studied in another Winter term course, Games and Simulations in Economics, taught by Prof. Reuben G. Miller.

Teaching by computer has been effective in helping students to learn a foreign language. At Sweet Briar a start has been made in Spanish under Mrs. Barbara H. Woods, visiting instructor. In elementary courses, students use the computer to learn the basic vocabulary that appears in each chapter of the text used in class.

In the course on chemical principles, students are using pre-prepared programs to get results from their laboratory experiments with oxidation and titration. They modify these programs for the input of their own data, and they are learning elements of BASIC to write their programs.

A senior honors student, Katherine Upchurch, has undertaken an independent computer project. Using a program developed by a research group, she is working on a problem in theoretical chemistry, under the direction of Asst. Professor Susan B. Piepho. Part of her project has been to modify the program to fit her own needs and the facilities of the Computer Center.

## First Winter Term

(continued from page 1)

perience in acting and all phases of stagecraft, culminated in a public performance of "The Glass Menagerie." The director, stage designer and young male actor were guests from the professional theatre who assisted with the workshop.

Among other courses too numerous to name, a few might be cited as examples of unusual offerings: Meteorology, Extra-Sensory Perception, The Contemporary Status of Women in America, and An Analysis of the Intelligence and Instinctual Behavior of the Horse.

In preparing for the first Winter term, faculty members accomplished an heroic task in introducing innovative courses and in guiding students in a great variety of independent studies. The library staff, too, was called upon for extra services in making source materials available. Purchase of 27 volumes and rental of 12 films were required for Introduction to the Film, the course which drew 50 students. For the Greek Archaeology course with 40 members, a dozen new books were needed to cover recent developments in this field.

Evaluations of Winter term will be made by students and faculty, to serve as guidelines for next year's program.



Examining winter flora with Prof. Sprague

During the Spring term, the computer will be applied in other disciplines: in education, where students will learn about its potential in teaching; in research methods in sociology; and in psychology.

Faculty members also have access to the computer. John M. Lee, music instructor, is using it for music analysis in calculations which are part of his doctoral dissertation, Harmonic Structures in the Rhythmic Etudes of Olivier Messiaen.

The potential of the computer in education appears to be almost limitless, including the humanities and the arts. Expansion of the equipment and its use are anticipated at Sweet Briar, where computer science in the curriculum has come to stay.





THEN and NOW: What is probably the first aerial view of Sweet Briar, taken about 50 years ago, was recently sent by an alumna, Susan Simrall Logan, '24. At that time, the newest building was Grammer dormitory (lower right); cherry trees outlined tennis courts



Piedmont Photocrafts

on the present site of the library (1929) and Fletcher (1925). The aerial view at the right, taken in 1969, shows most of the principal college buildings. Grammer is at the left of the Chapel, which stands where the road formerly came up the hill.

## Early Decision Candidates Enrolled in Class of '76

Forty-six applicants for the Class of 1976 have been accepted under the Early Decision Plan. They include two day students, residents of Amherst County. Twenty-four will graduate from public high schools and the remainder from independent schools.

Geographically, they represent all areas of this country, including one student from Anchorage, Alaska. The distribution is as follows: northeast, 45%; southeast, 43%; middle and northwest, 8%; southwest and far west 2% each.

Included are two alumnae daughters, one granddaughter, and four sisters of current students.

## Enrollment Increased By Returning Students

With the opening of the Spring term February 7, Sweet Briar welcomed back 16 students who had been off campus during the first part of this year. Seven others had previously come back for Winter term studies in January.

The largest contingent, those who returned from Florence where they had been enrolled in the Syracuse Semester program numbered 16, of whom two had re-entered in January.

Two others studied in the Washington Semester Program at the American University; one came back from a term as a visiting student at Davidson College; two returned from large coeducational universities, one from another woman's college, and one did not attend college last fall.

Four seniors who have completed their college studies and have left cam-

## Hostel and 'Kitchen' Are Recent Additions

Two new facilities, a guest hostel and the Chef's Kitchen, were recently opened to aid in solving some of the "dating" problems on campus.

The hostel offers overnight accommodations at a modest price for men students visiting friends at Sweet Briar, and the Chef's Kitchen has equipment for cooking and serving meals in home-like surroundings.

Up to 16 men may stay at the hostel, where they share a common dormitory room. Visitors must register in the company of their hostesses; each guest is assigned to a bed and locker. Hostesses and guests are responsible for compliance with rules governing the hostel, including visitation hours for women students and care of college property.

The hostel was converted from the old "Date House" which ceased operation as a recreation center when the Wailes College Center opened with new facilities for entertaining visitors.

A small faculty apartment has become The Chef's Kitchen. With a living room, dining room and kitchen at their disposal, a dining service for eight and some cooking utensils, students may exercise their culinary skills in preparing and serving dinners to their guests. The Chef's Kitchen is also being used for special parties by small groups of girls, without dates.

pus expect to return for graduation.

Special Winter term courses attracted two students to Sweet Briar this year, from Salem College and Florida Presbyterian College.

## Lyman Lecture Given

A distinguished Lutheran theologian, Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan, professor of religious studies at Yale University, spoke at Sweet Briar early in January. His address, "Reformation and Revolution," was given as the Eugene William and Mary Ely Lyman Lecture in the Philosophy of Religion. Established in 1948 in memory of Dr. Eugene Lyman who lived at Sweet Briar for eight years after his retirement from Union Theological Seminary in New York, the lectureship also honors his wife, who was dean of Sweet Briar and professor of religion from 1940 to 1950.

## Virginia Private Colleges

### Ask State Tuition Aid

An organization of 26 private colleges and universities in Virginia is asking the 1972 General Assembly to establish a program of tuition assistance to Virginia students who attend private colleges in the state.

The Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia (CICV) plan calls for annual awards to each Virginia student in these colleges based on the subsidy which the state pays for each student attending a public college. Last year this subsidy was \$800 per student.

If the Legislature adopts the CICV proposal, Virginia will join 29 other states which aid private higher education through student assistance or other programs. According to CICV president Luther W. White, III, "Virginia's private colleges and universities are suffering a decline in enrollment and in financial position. Unless our state government acts promptly, Virginia risks losing its balanced system of public-private higher education."

## Campus Notes

● The Clayton E. Bailey Room in the new Harriet Howell Rogers Riding Center was officially named at an informal ceremony early in December. Funds to furnish this room were contributed by alumnae who were students when Mr. Bailey was associated with Sweet Briar's riding program, which he directed for several years. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Bailey and members of their family, this event was attended by friends from Lynchburg and Sweet Briar, and by a number of alumnae.

● A portrait of Buford Scott, prominent stockbroker and civic leader in Richmond and a former Overseer and Director of Sweet Briar, is a recent gift to the college from his daughters, Margery Johnson, '57, Mary Denny Reid, '61, and Elisabeth Porter, '64. The portrait hangs in the library of the Connie M. Guion Science Building, for which Mr. Scott gave \$100,000. Since completion of the building in 1965, he has contributed additional funds for its maintenance endowment, an important resource which the Board has named for him.

● Combining church history and architecture, Dr. Gregory T. Armstrong, associate professor of religion, recently gave a lecture on "Constantine's Churches: Symbol and Structure," at the School of Architecture of the University of Tennessee. He also met with classes in the history of architecture to discuss problems in the study of early Christian structures and the recent archaeological discoveries in Palestine and Rome.

● A recent grant of \$10,000 from the Burlington Industries Foundation has been added to endowment for faculty salaries. Two earlier gifts from this foundation, totaling \$7,000, were used for the science building and the library wing.

● With 12 outstanding guest lecturers and a series of related films, all open to the public, the course on "Conservation: Agenda for Tomorrow" is being given for the second year during the Spring term. Planned and directed by Dr. Elizabeth F. Sprague, professor of biology, the course covers various aspects of pollution, population, urbanization, conservation of natural resources and other environmental problems. It is supported by funds from the COSIP grant, awarded to Sweet Briar in 1970 by the National Science Foundation.

● A conference on the Middle East Crisis, with speakers presenting both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict, peace-making efforts, and the prospects for peace in that area, took place during several days in January. In addition to representatives of the two opposing forces, speakers included President Landrum Bolling, of Earlham College, an outstanding authority on problems of their conflict; and Dr. Don Peretz, former Middle East correspondent who is now teaching at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

● Dr. Catherine Seaman, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, has been re-elected chairman of the Nelson County School Board, of which she has been a member since 1954. She was elected chairman last summer to fill a vacancy.

● Three articles by Dr. Maria Z. Embeita, Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish, have appeared in 1971 issues of *Insula* and *Indice*, two leading literary journals published in Madrid. Miss Embeita's work was based on research completed since she came to Sweet Briar in 1969. The articles printed in *Indice* are "Una nación en el banquillo" (May) and "Las ideas políticas de Baroja" (Oct.). For *Insula* she wrote "Balzac y Galdós: un paralelismo" (Sept.).

● Raymond Twiddy, assistant professor of art, is one of 29 artists invited to show their works in the 34th Annual North Carolina Artists' Exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh during December and January. In the past year his works were shown in Charlotte, Nashville, Winston-Salem, and Lynchburg. He is known for his use of synthetic resins which he applies to transparent acrylic sheets.

● Dr. Belle Boone Beard, emeritus professor of sociology, was chosen by Gov. Linwood Holton as Virginia's outstanding older citizen to represent the state at the recent White House Conference on the Aging. As a member of the Virginia delegation, Dr. Beard also helped prepare the state's report for the meetings and participated in the working sessions. She is an international authority on gerontology.

● An article by Dr. Ferdinando Alfonsi, assistant professor of Italian, was published in a recent issue of *Citta di Vita*, an Italian literary journal. Based on his doctoral dissertation, it contains Dr. Alfonsi's critical views of Italian novelist Alberto Moravia.



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